

rather sheer carelessness or overconfidence. A driver should not be sitting back and relaxing while controlling a hurtling ton of steel with a little plastic wheel — hardly different than pointing a loaded gun at the heads of bicyclists and pedestrians.

• Driving at all: The next time you think you have someplace to be, stop and think a minute about whether you can take the bus, ride a bike, walk, or — just stay home!

In memory of those who have fallen.

Paul Hilbert
Eugene

WIN AT ANY COST

The latest Nike public relations “dislosure” [locations of all sweatshops] is actually an attempt to divert attention from upcoming Nike products such as wearable computers equipped with GPS that will create new health and privacy concerns for consumers. Nike’s win-at-any-cost ethos is helping power the doping trend and race to develop undetectable athlete “enhancements.”

Nike’s embrace of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology should cause every parent to boycott their products and products sold by Nike-owned companies also. These technologies along with Nike’s poor human rights record and new Microsoft product development partnerships should deter consumers if they only knew.

Zachary Vishanoff
Eugene

STOP THE RIP-OFF

I want to be a writer when I grow up. I want to be successful. But when I graduate, I will be neck-deep in debt. My father always told me that an education will take me wherever I want to go. Instead my education is so expensive it has become the road block to my future.

As a student on financial aid I am bewildered by the never-ending rise of textbook prices. I guess that’s the catch-22 of a college education: You can get a better job with a college degree that will help pay off all that college debt!

Tired of being taken advantage of, I joined OSPIRG, an organization on campus dedicated to issues that affect students such as

overpriced textbooks. OSPIRG has turned the frustration of the students onto the cause of the problem: the publishers. Rising book prices are due to the conniving tactics of the publishers who constantly put out new editions. There are often no changes to the content, yet prices continue to rise faster than inflation rates. Students are unable to sell back books and are left penniless.

McGraw-Hill publishing company claims their new releases contain information based on student and professor feedback. I am a student working with professors to get our feedback heard: Stop ripping us off and don’t release new editions with no content changes except a higher price tag!

Michelle Leo
University of Oregon

MANDATORY PEACE

Talking about “thinking outside the box,” I believe that we should reinvent the United Nations. Since it already exists as an International Organization, simply change its mandate to secure mandatory peace.

Basically, we would arm the U.N. to the max with all member nations voluntarily transferring their military powers to U.N. control, essentially making the U.N. bar none the most absolute powerful military force on the planet.

Once this military power is in place, any country that shows any signs of aggression toward any other country would immediately be converged upon by the dynamic U.N. power grid to quell the situation. Hence, mandatory peace.

All problems would be solved at the conference table just like mature, conscientious, adult human beings should act.

Wait, there’s more: Once we have an enforced peace, why not just stretch our imaginations a bit further and solve world hunger and poverty?

Steve Berger
Eugene

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